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*Acting Secretary*

# California Regional Water Quality Control Board Central Valley Region

**Robert Schneider, Chair**



**Arnold  
Schwarzenegger**  
*Governor*

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18 May 2006

Mr. Timothy Johnson  
President-CEO  
California Rice Commission  
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Ms. Roberta Firoved  
Manager, Industry Affairs  
California Rice Commission  
701 University Avenue, Suite 205  
Sacramento, CA 95825

## **ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT-CALIFORNIA RICE COMMISSION**

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) received the Annual Monitoring Report (Annual Report) on 30 December, which was submitted by the California Rice Commission (CRC) to meet the conditions of the Monitoring and Reporting Program (MRP) Order No. R5-2003-0839 for the CRC under Resolution No. R5-2003-0105.

The Central Valley Water Board staff met with you in March 2006, and some of the comments that are in the Annual Report Review memorandum (attached) have already been discussed. In particular, the discussions have centered on the approach to conduct sufficient toxicity identification during routine sampling events and the selection of additional pesticides to be monitored in 2007 and subsequent years, remains to be resolved. This letter and attachment serve to formalize the comments on the Annual Report review including those that have been discussed previously with the CRC. The complete review by Central Valley Water Board staff is attached, and these comments are summarized below.

The CRC will need to conduct the following in current and future monitoring events:

1. Toxicity test results need to be reported as to whether or not they are significantly different than the control, and the percent difference from lab control. This is because the various approaches for follow-up are based on the results 'as compared to control'.
2. Develop consistent communications with the local agriculture commissioners when toxicity occurs or pesticides are detected, and conduct any additional efforts necessary to identify sources and to implement management practices.
3. Collect sufficient sample volume for toxicity tests at designated monitoring sites so that a toxicity identification evaluation can be conducted on the original sample.
4. Submit Communication Reports promptly whenever there are any exceedances of any water quality objective, including dissolved oxygen, pH, *e-coli* and total dissolved solids. Exceedance Reports will also be required for the UC Davis edge-of-field monitoring as exceedances occur.

The Central Valley Water Board would like to recognize the extensive work involved in the production of the Annual Report, and would also like to thank the CRC for willing cooperation with Central Valley Water Board staff. In particular, we anticipate productive communications in upcoming weeks regarding appropriate monitoring sites and constituents for Year 2007 of the CRC monitoring plans. We are confident that continued improvement in collaboration will help protect water quality and ensure success for the coalition approach being utilized in the Irrigated Lands Conditional Waiver Program.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the review, or need any further information, please contact Amanda Smith at (916) 464-4716.

MARGIE LOPEZ READ  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Monitoring and Assessment Unit

Enclosure: Response to Review of Annual Monitoring Report - California Rice Commission, 27 April 2006

Mr. Timothy Johnson  
May 2006  
Ms. Roberta Firoved

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Bcc: Bill Croyle  
Rudy Schnagl  
Amanda Smith  
Russ Walls